

ABSTRACT

A method for measuring the barrier properties of naturally occurring tissue, such as the skin. The method comprises the steps of providing a probe having a pair of spaced apart electrodes in electrical communication with each other, a voltage generator capable of supplying an increasing voltage between said electrodes, and a voltage meter capable of indicating the voltage between said electrodes. The electrodes are placed in contact with the target surface. An increasing voltage from is supplied from the voltage generator to the electrodes until current between said electrodes reaches a predetermined value. The voltage, which occurs when the current reaches the predetermined value, is noted. In another embodiment the invention comprises a device for measuring the barrier properties of the skin. The device comprises a probe. The probe has a pair of spaced apart electrodes in electrical communication with each other. The electrodes are noninvasively contactable with the skin of a subject, or other target surface. The device also comprises a voltage generator, capable of supplying an increasing voltage between the electrodes, and a voltage meter capable of indicating the voltage between the electrodes. The voltage meter indicates the voltage between the electrodes when current between the electrodes reaches a predetermined value.